

Oklahoma Chess Monthly

OCTOBER 2020

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

OCM



Maybe Chess Social Distancing Has Gone Too Far

In This Issue:

- 86th Annual Southwest Open
- Online Chess ...with Twins!
- States Cup
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

THE PURE CHESS ISSUE

Editor's Note -

In recent months, due to the pandemic and all the changes it forced upon the chess tournament world, this publication had mainly be featuring human-interest chess stories. We had profiles of Robert Ware, Jude Acers, Marion V. Murray, and other interesting characters from this region's history.

Finally this month we've had enough recent actual chess activity to focus an entire issue on chess! The Annual Southwest Open (in Fort Worth, TX) was an actual over-the-board tournament! And some interesting online chess events are now underway, including the States Cup in which Oklahoma has a team.

So this month we have chess reports, games, and analysis. Enjoy...



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2020 SOUTHWEST OPEN OVER-THE-BOARD

IM Justin Sarkar wins Open Section

Okie Shaun Graham wins Reserve Section

The 86th Annual Southwest Open was held OTB on Labor Day Weekend, September 4-7, in Irving, TX (a suburb of Dallas) signaling the trend of a few more such events beginning to appear amidst the pandemic. Turnout was light compared to normal years: Just 79 players in 5 sections.

IM Justin Sarkar (2470) came in from New York to win the tournament with a 6-1 score.

He was held to a draw in round 2 by Ryan Amburgy (2156) of Tulsa. He and fellow Okie Joe Dean Veal (1941) had good results in the Open Section.

Okie Shaun Graham won the Reserve Section with a 6-1 score. Congratulations, I think Shaun must be the first Okie to win a section of the Southwest Open in many decades. Prizes were cut 50% in the Reserve so his payday was only \$400.

Max Barnes, Oscar Wang, and Rebecca Rutledge also all had positive results.

As far as the issue of the 'conditions' in the tournament hall during the pandemic, where parts of Texas were still in partial shutdown mode, Shaun Graham reports this: "The atmosphere was fine, the spacing was sufficient though they could have had significant more spacing had they opted to do so because the second half of the room tables were empty. It all felt safe and comfortable to me. They had the rounds posted online, so you didn't have to congregate at the pairing charts (though people still like to do so). The turnout was low, partially because people assume that there are no tournaments, so they aren't aware of them or planning on them. There were people that traveled from California, New York, Florida and other places just looking for a tournament. When you look on the USCF page tournament announcement

with all of these huge red cancelled marks, you get the idea that chess is cancelled in general. They should remove all of that and just list what's actually occurring. Hotel didn't have the normal breakfast as most hotels don't, but there was no situation where people were bottled in tight together, and everyone had a mask. The TD was vigilant, walking around to make sure everyone was in compliance. It was at least the second event he has run during this pandemic."

Organizer was Luis Salinas of the Dallas Chess Club, and Chief TD was Louis Reed, assisted by Barbara Swafford.



Shaun Graham, sporting a stylish chess face mask, receives prize from organizer Luis Salinas.



Scene showing the social distancing at the tournament.

See games from this event, next page.

TWO GAMES FROM THE SOUTHWEST OPEN

Amburgy, Ryan (2156)

Sarker, IM Justin (2470) [D00]

2020 Southwest Open Chess.com (2.2),

05.09.2020

[Notes by TB]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 [A tricky modern opening sometimes called the Jobava London. One of the ideas is an early Nb5, and here IM Sarkar decides to simply prevent that, hoping to show white's N on c3 is then misplaced.]

3...a6!? 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Bd3 Be7 8.e4 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nd5 10.Bd2 Qc7 [So now the game has transposed to something very similar to the French: Tarrasch Variation! That's a pretty good joke on Black if he isn't normally a French player!]

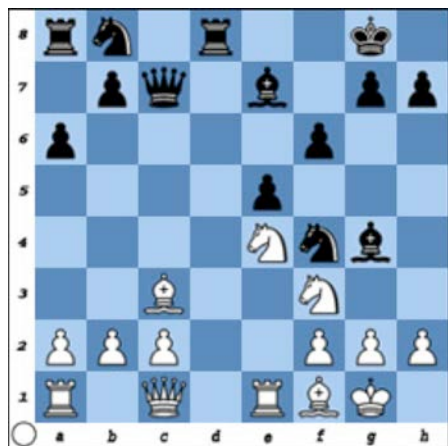
11.0-0 Nf4 12.Bc3 f6 [12...Nxd3 13.Qxd3 is a big development lead for White.]

13.Re1 0-0 14.Qd2?!

[An unfortunate move. Better 14.Bf1]

14...e5 [Now here's a tip for you that is worth about 25 rating points. Whenever a player has a bunch of pieces jumbled up in front of a bunch of pawns, as white does here, there is almost always a threat for those pawns to suddenly advance and fork something! In this case ...f5 and ...e4 is going to fork Bd3 and Nf3. Thus, white's next move.]

15.Bf1 Rd8 16.Qc1 Bg4? [16...Nc6 is better for black. But the game move is a blunder that should lose material. Do you see how?]



White to
move and
win!

17.Rd1?

[There is a wonderfully hidden combination here that my computer pointed out, based on the precarious positions of the B on g4 and N on f4: 17.Nxf6+!! Bxf6

(OR 17...gxf6 18.Nxe5 Ne2+ (18...fxe5 19.Bxe5) 19.Bxe2 Bxe2 20.Rxe2 fxe5 21.Bxe5 Here white has 3 pawns for the piece, but the black king is wide open and he is behind in development. White threatens BxQ as well as Qh6. White has a rook life with Re3 coming too. Verdict: white is winning. 21...Qd7 22.Qf4!+-)

18.Bxe5! (18.Nxe5? Bg5!) 18...Bxe5 19.Nxe5 White wins the piece back and is up two pawns.]

17...Rxd1 18.Qxd1 Nc6 19.Bc4+ Kh8 20.Qf1 b5 21.Bb3 Bxf3 22.gxf3 b4

[22...f5 first is stronger: 23.Ng3 b4 24.Bd2 Nd4 25.Bxf4 exf4 26.Ne2 Nxf3+ 27.Kh1 Nd2 28.Qh3 Qe5 29.Ng1 Ne4-+]

23.Bd2 Nd4 24.Bxf4 exf4 25.Qd3 [Better was 25.Nd2 but 25...Rd8 26.Rd1 a5 is close to a winning positional edge.]

25...Rd8 26.Kg2 [Black has a winning advantage here, but it's complicated and he is down to only 4 minutes on his clock.]

26...Nxb3 27.Qxb3 f5 [The N is trapped.]

28.Re1 fxe4 29.Rxe4 a5? [Just after he achieved a winning position black blunders.]

[29...Bf8 30.c3 bxc3 31.bxc3 Rd2 32.Re8 Qc5 is one nice way to play it for black.]

30.Qf7 Qxc2 [After the sudden turnaround, the IM went from four minutes to one on his clock, while Ryan still had over 40 minutes. But here he continues to blitz out moves and misses a chance to win. This is a good lesson, because it is a kind of mistake all of us often make. I know I do... Trying to blitz out your opponent when you are in a lost position is one thing, but doing it when you have an equal or better position means you are both blitzing and you may miss good chances.]

31.Rxe7?

[Played quickly, but 31.Qxe7 threatening a back rank mate would have been very strong. 31...Rg8 32.Qe5! is very strong, though not necessarily winning yet. 32...h6 33.Rxf4 b3 34.a3]

31...Qg6+ [That must have been an enormous sigh of relief for the IM.]

32.Qxg6 hxc6 33.Ra7 Rd2 34.Rxa5 Rxb2

½ - ½

Sarkar, IM Justin (2470)

Woodward, NM Andy (2196) [B94]

2020 Southwest Open Chess.com (2),

06.09.2020

[Notes by TB]

[IM Sarkar here faces young TX prodigy Andy Woodward (2196), who played in OKC last year. The veteran tricks the kid in a complex opening.]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.a4!? e5?! [Although this move is common in the Najdorf, here it's not so good as white's N jump to f5 is possible, after which it retreats to e3 to dominate the d5 square. Better is either 7...g6!? or the usual 7...e6 One GM game went: 8.Be2 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.a5 Nc5 11.Bf3 Qc7 12.Re1 Rb8 13.Qd2 Rd8 14.Be3 b5 15.axb6 Rxb6 16.b3 Rb8 17.Nde2 Bb7 18.Ng3 Rbc8 19.Bd4 Ncd7 20.Rac1 Ne5 21.Na4 Nxf3+ 22.gxf3 Nd7 23.Qe3 Rf8 24.Nb6 Nxb6 25.Bxb6 Qd7 26.Bd4 Bh4 27.Red1 f5 28.Be5 Qf7 29.Bxd6 f4 30.Qa7 fxc3 31.hxc3 Qxf3 32.Bxf8 Qxe4 33.f3 Qxf3 0-1 Motylev,A (2648)-Artemiev,V (2671) St Petersburg 2015]

8.Nf5 Qb6 [Black tries to distract white from the attack on d6 or his maneuver to d5, but it only makes things worse.]

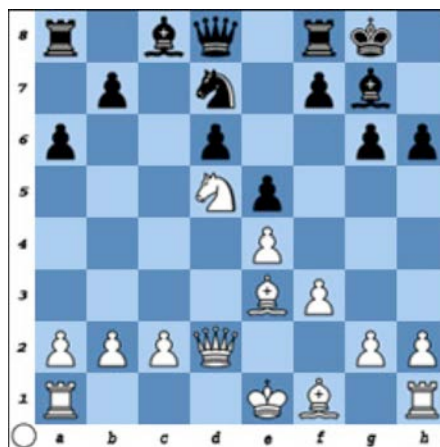
9.Ne3! h6 [9...Qxb2 10.Ned5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 would be crushing, as Nc7 not only threatens to fork the rook, but is mate! 11...f6 12.Be3 Rb8 saves the rook but the queen is obviously trapped then after Bc4 and Ra2 for white.]

10.Ned5 Qd8 11.Be3 [White is now firmly in

control. One of Black's biggest problems is that the N on d7 must stay there to prevent Bb6, which means he can't easily complete his development. This is in addition to the big positional advantage white has on the d5 square.]

11...g6 [Thanks to some tactics Black finds a sequence that allows him to get castled, but note that the fianchettoed bishop will leave d6 fatally weak. No doubt Woodward was willing to gambit that pawn for counterplay, but it doesn't work out.]

12.f3 Bg7 13.Qd2 Nxd5 14.Nxd5 0-0



15.Bc4

[15.Bxb6? Qh4+ is the point. But the IM calmly completes his development and targets d6 now.]

15...Kh7 16.0-0 Nf6

[16...b6 17.Qb4!; 16...Nc5 17.b4 Ne6 18.Rfd1 would last longer, but is Agony City.]

17.Bb6 Qd7 18.Rfd1 Qc6 19.Nxf6+ Bxf6 20.Qxd6 Qxc4?

[A desperate and totally unsound sacrifice, but the pawn-down ending after 20...Qxd6 21.Rxd6 Be7 22.Rd3 was also hopeless.]

21.Qxf8 Bh3 22.Qxa8 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 h5 24.Qxb7 g5 25.Qd5 Qe2+ 26.Bf2 g4 27.Qxf7+ Bg7 28.Qxh5+ Kg8 29.Rd8+ Bf8 30.Qg6+ Kh8 31.Rxf8#

1-0

[Another game from this event is the GOTM.](#)

Playing Chess During a Pandemic — With Twins!

by Martin Carlson



I know I'm not the only person who misses playing in real, over-the-board chess tournaments. Even though there have been some recent tournaments like the Southwest Open, it's not always easy to find a tournament that is relatively safe to attend, as well as one that fits with a tight schedule. In my case, it will be impossible for the next few years. Even after COVID-19 is resolved, I will be working on my mathematics Ph.D research, but more importantly, I will be raising twins! (For those not in the know, my wife and I welcomed Gordon Adrian Carlson and Jessica Lynn Carlson into the world on June 20.) So, I will have to wait quite some time before I get to push pawns for rating points, which is quite frustrating, as I feel like my game was taking off in 2019, and had I gotten to play more, I feel like I could have broken 2000 by now.

Of course, I didn't want to completely stop playing, but I needed a good solution. I could play blitz, but fun fact: I am absolute garbage at blitz! (See the blitz tournament Matt Miller hosted in November 2015. I finished dead last in the reserve section!) I also tried correspondence chess, but I kept getting crushed by people with better computer software than me. One particular example was when I got beat on the White side of a mainline King's Indian by a player who executed a flawless attack. After the game, I found his USCF rating: 1032!

So what about longer time control games on the ICC or chess.com, like G/30 or G/60? Well, two

things happened with those. The first was the rampant presence of cheaters. It seemed that anytime I played someone rated over 1900 on chess.com, they would often grind me into the ground with their engine. Granted, their accounts would be deleted and I would get my rating points back, but I still didn't get a good game of chess! Second, if one or both of my babies start fussing, and my wife isn't around to take care of things, I have to stop playing to help them. Few things are as frustrating as having to resign or intentionally flag a won position.

"Daily Chess"

So, my solution was daily chess on chess.com. Each player has one day to make a move. On chess.com, reference materials are allowed for openings, but no engines are allowed. (For the record, I know they enforce this, because I wasn't aware of this rule a couple of years ago and got my account shut down!) Thus, I get to play long games without having to worry about cheaters or having to quit in the middle of the game.

I joined a tournament back in February, and as of the moment of my writing, I'm in the semifinal round. All the players were grouped into pods of 5 players, and everyone would play the other four players twice, once with each color. The winner of each pod would advance to the next round, where the players would be re-grouped and the

process would repeat. Currently, there are nine players left in Round 4, with four in my pod and five in the other.

The first two rounds provided little resistance, as almost everyone I played was about 1000 USCF or less by my estimate. The one exception was a player in Round 2 who may have been about 1600 USCF, but his openings weren't great, so I ground him down fairly easily in both. However, I finally ran into stiffer resistance in Round 3. Two of my opponents were novices, but my other two could actually play solid chess. The following game is my second game against someone who, upon asking, was a 2100+ player from the Seattle area. I got no advantage in my first game with White, so I was hoping to be able to get something going with Black.

TheMathProf (1851)
 Carlson, Martin (2090) [B25]
 Chess.com Chess.com, 17.05.2020
[Carlson,Martin]

[My opponent was a USCF 2100+ player from the Seattle area, so I really enjoyed this game.]

1.e4 c5 [I'm not usually a Sicilian player. However, I've been playing a lot of online games with Matt Dalthorp since COVID-19 popped up, and I had helped him prep some lines against the Dragon, so I figured a little Sicilian would be a fun change of pace for a French player.]

2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.f4 e6
 7.Nf3 Nge7 8.O-O O-O 9.Be3 b6 10.d4 Ba6

[So far, all according to theory.]

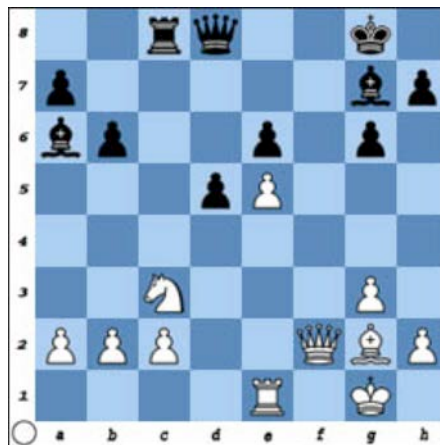
11.Rf2 [According to Kotronias, this is inferior to Re1, although I admit it's not easy to understand why.]

11...d5 12.e5 [12.Rd2 is the move given by Kotronias as best here, but then Black has 12...Na5 with the idea of Nc4 13.b3 Qc7 eyeballing the loose knight on c3 14.e5 Nf5 15.Bf2 cxd4 16.Ne2 Ne3 17.Qc1 Nxg2 18.Kxg2 Nb7]

12...Nf5 [Now I just win the bishop pair.]

13.Qd2 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 cxd4 15.Nxd4 Nxd4
 16.Qxd4 f6 [My worst piece is my dark-squared bishop, so I want to activate it.]

17.Re1 fxe5 18.fxe5 Rxf2 19.Qxf2 Rc8



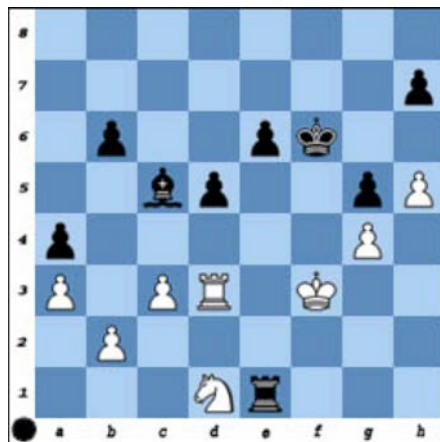
I think I'm a little better here, but I have to be a little careful since the e6-pawn can be easily attacked. It would be easy to fall for a silly tactic.

20.Bf1? [But I feel like this was a mistake. That bishop could annoy me on h3 instead! Now I get to trade off one big headache.]

20...Bxf1 21.Kxf1 Qg5 22.Qe2 Rf8+ 23.Kg2 Rf5 [The pawn on e5 is doomed.]

24.h4 Qe7 25.Qa6 Bxe5 26.Qc8+ Kf7
 27.Nd1 Qc7 28.Qxc7+ Bxc7 29.c3 Re5
 30.Ne3 Bd6 31.Rf1+ Ke7 32.Rf3 Bc5 33.Nd1
 Re1 34.Rd3 a5 35.a3 a4 [Apparently, Re2+ is better according to the computer, but I like the simplicity of blocking his pawns.]

36.Kf3 Kf6 37.g4 g5 38.h5? [Now I have a nice finisher:]



38...e5! 39.Rxd5 e4+ 40.Kg2 Rg1+ 41.Kh3 e3
[The point of ...e5! White loses his knight and the game.]

42.Nxe3 Bxe3 43.Rb5 Bc5 44.b4 axb3
45.Rxb3 Ke5 46.Rb2 Kf4

0-1

After beating TheMathProf, my final game in the group was against RuslanLam, who was probably the slowest mover in the pod. While most people move several times a day in spite of the time control, he moved exactly once per day, so his games were always the last to finish by weeks. Nonetheless, he was a tough opponent.

Carlson, Martin (2099)

RuslanLam (1691) [D02]

Chess.com Chess.com, 10.05.2020

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 [Ah, the London, my favorite opening as White. I'll even be so bold as to say it's the best opening! Not from a theoretical standpoint, no. But, it's easy to learn for novices, and as you get better, you pick up the subtleties of the opening, making it dangerous against even IM level players. In fact, I find that the better my opponents are, the better I do against them! Case and point: I've played Matt Dalthorp in five training games in the London, and even though he prepped to face the London, I ended up +3 -1 =1, and the non-wins should have been wins were it not for bad endgame play on my part. So if you're looking for a new opening for White, look no further!]

2...Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.c3 Nc6 [In my opinion, this is one of the most solid systems for Black against the London. White is deprived of a lot of his usual shenanigans on the kingside. I've won a lot of London games with the bishop on d3 and getting to give my opponent the Greek Gift.]

8.Ne5 Qb6 9.Qb3 c4 10.Qxb6 axb6 [I don't think I have any sort of advantage. My opponent has played the opening very well.]

11.Na3 Ne4 12.Nc2 g5! [I didn't see this move, but it's quite irritating. My London

bishop will soon be short of squares.]

13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Bc7 b5 15.f3 Nf6 16.Nb4 Bd7 17.Rae1 Ne8 18.Bg3 f5 [Again, my opponent is playing strong chess. I have to find some sort of activity to keep from being worse. I decided to break in the center.]

19.Bd1 Bf6 20.Bc2 Nd6 21.e4 dxe4 22.fxe4 fxe4 23.Bxe4 Nxe4 24.Rxe4



Even though Black has the bishop pair, it's not all bad for me. He has to babysit the c6 and e7 pawns with his bishops for the moment, and my knight is on a strong square. I also have open files for my rooks.

24...e6?! [This move confused me. Why block your bishop even more? It also gives my bishop a new home on d6.]

[24...Rf7 seems more solid to me.]

25.Bd6 Rf7 26.a3 h5 27.Re2 g4? [Now I have the simple but strong]

28.Re2 Kg7 29.Be5 Raf8 30.Rxf6 Rxf6 31.Na6 Kg6 32.Bxf6 Rxf6 33.Nc5 Rxf1+ 34.Kxf1

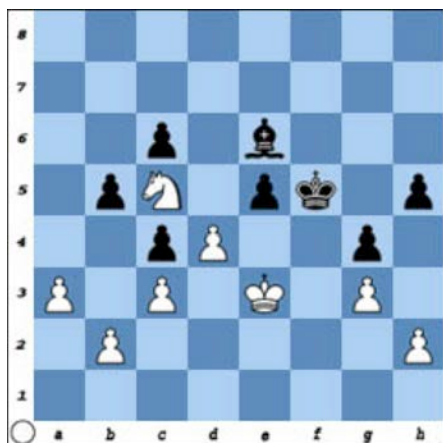
This endgame is better for White. Perhaps not won, but my knight is far superior to the bishop.

34...Bc8 35.Ke2?

This should have thrown away the win. It allows the Black king an entry point to my kingside after a few forced moves.

[35.Ne4 maintains the advantage. Black can't come to f5 due to the fork on d6.]

35...Kf5 36.g3 e5 37.Ke3 Be6



38.Nxe6

38.dxe5 Kxe5 39.Nxe6;

TB - editor's note: I don't think white should enter the K+P endgame at all. Instead 38.a4 bxa4 39.Nxa4 and white can hope to force his king to d4, after which black's c-pawn will fall and he will be a pawn up with good chances, i.e. 39...Bd5 40.Nc5 (threatening Nd7) 40...exd4+ 41.Kxd4 seems to win.

38...Kxe6 39.Ke4 exd4 40.Kxd4 Kd6 41.a4 c5+ 42.Ke4 [I thought about offering the draw right here, but I played on for one more move, hoping for a miracle.]

42...Ke6?? [Christmas came early for me!!]

[42...bxa4 is a dead draw.]

43.axb5

Now it's a trivial win, so Black resigned.

1-0

This miracle win helped propel me to the top of the pod, and thus I was able to advance to Round 4. While I still have one game going on, this game was easily my best.

Carlson, Martin (2192) - pelemanov (2158)
[A43]

Chess.com Chess.com, 16.08.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 [Back in 2017, Mike Nugent pounded me into the ground in my pet Benko line, so I've been experimenting with Anti-Benko lines. That

said, next time I play someone who I know plays the Benko, I'll probably go main lines and have some fun!]

4...b5 [Black is clearly a Benko player at heart!]

5.dxe6 fxe6 6.Nxb5 d5 7.e4 [A neat move which gives back the pawn for development. Black's center, although it looks strong, is actually very fragile.]

7...Nxe4 8.c4 a6 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3



10...Be7?

[Black's idea was to play Bf6 and perhaps 0-0, but this idea doesn't work. White gets too much play against the kingside, so the Black king ends up getting in trouble.]

Better was 10...Nc6. The point is after 11.Qc2 Qc7 12.Bd3, Black doesn't have to weaken his kingside with ..g6, and instead can play 12...Ne5 13.Nxe5 (13.Bxh7?! Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Qe5+ 15.Kf1 White's extra pawn is meaningless, as his pawns are a mess and his king is breezy.) 13...Qxe5+ 14.Kf1 and White has some coordination issues, so Black is fine. I think I would even prefer to have Black's position.

11.Qc2

[I want to play Bd3, but if 11.Bd3!? dxc4 12.Bxc4 Qxd1+ 13.Kxd1 Black has no problems, especially without the queens.]

11...Bf6 12.Bd3 g6 13.Bh6

[I felt like I was already winning here. Black's position is full of holes, and he's way behind in development.]

13...Bb7 14.O-O Kf7 15.Rfe1 Nd7 16.Rab1
[Maybe 16.h4 immediately is better, but there's nothing wrong with the text. My position is so good, I can afford the extra move.]

16...Qc7 17.h4 Rae8 18.h5 Rhg8 19.Qe2 Bc6 20.Ng5+ [Now he has to give up his bishop for the knight, so my advantage is beyond doubt.]

20...Bxg5 21.Bxg5 Kg7 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.Qg4 Nf8?

[The final blunder in a lost position, but what else is there?]



24.cxd5 exd5 25.Rxe8 Bxe8 26.Re1 Bf7 27.Re7 [27.Qh4 is faster.]

27...Qd6 28.Qh4 [28.Bh6+ apparently leads to a forced mate according to the computer. However, I might have had my account deleted had I played such a move! Nonetheless, I saw that my idea would net me a piece, so it was good enough for me. 28...Kxh6 29.Rxf7 Qe5 30.Be2 and it's over soon.]

28...Rh8 29.Rxf7+ Kxf7 30.Qxh8 [My opponent decided enough was enough. This was one of the cleanest attacks of my chess career.]

1-0

While these games were very enjoyable, I still miss the atmosphere of a real tournament, and I can't wait to play with all of my favorite Oklahoma players again.

In the meantime, if you fancy a game, my chess.com handle is *TitanicSooner*. Send me a friend request or challenge me to a daily game



"Covid Cowboys at the Waco Chess Club"



At the July Waco Chess Club's Sanitizer Swiss #1, Matt Potts (in the cowboy hat) demonstrates ECO C-19 in a way only real chess players can appreciate. TD Jason Howell stands ready to douse the board with sanitizer if needed... Left is John DeVries, who writes for the *Texas Knights*. Jon Cromartie observes the action from the far right.

Jason Howell and Jim Hollingsworth split the 1st prize with 2.5/3 scores.

(Photo by Jim Hollingsworth)

by Tom Braunlich



For OCTOBER 2020

Active Oklahoma Players

	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2537	0	
2	Jeffrey Haskel	2362	0	
3	Howard Zhong	2307	0	
4	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
5	Mark Hulsey	2199	0	
6	Ryan Amburgy	2162	6	
7	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
8	Veronika Zilajeva	2080	0	
9	Tom Patton	2077	0	
10	Charles D Unruh	2063	0	
11	James Long	2053	0	
12	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
13	Matt Dalthorp	2029	0	
14	Charles M Unruh	2024	0	
15	Chuck Johnson	2010	0	
16	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
17	Stephen Gehly	2000	0	
18	David Luscomb	1995	0	
19	Joe Dean Veal	1961	20	
20	Charles Woodall	1937	0	
21	Paul Hodgden	1935	0	
22	Wayne Hatcher	1926	0	
23	Logan Zachare	1910	0	
24	Harold Brown Jr.	1901	0	▲
25	Shaun Graham	1893	-13	▼



Player of the Month

CHRIS AMBURY

There's not a busier player in the state:
OSCO President, States Cup captain, Chess
Parent ... and an active player to boot.

After three rounds of play so far, Okies on the Roster have included Braunlich (2200), Amburgy (2150), Zilajeva (2080), Paolercio (2080), Dalthorp (2026), and Veal (1961).

Results:

Round 1

Oklahoma (avg 2114)- Colorado (avg 2134)

8 — 8 (tie)

Okies led throughout the first three rounds but Colorado pulled out a tie in the last round.

Round 2

Oklahoma (avg 2086) - Minnesota (avg 2187)

7 — 9

Outrated by 100 points made it tough, but Matt and Ryan had good results.

Round 3

Oklahoma (avg 2084) - Illinois (avg 2199)

5 — 11

Trounced by the Illinois team of 3 strong masters.

Round 4 is scheduled for Thursday October 1, at 8:00pm — Oklahoma vs. Missouri

You can watch the games on lichess.org or on twitch.tv (in the chess section).

GAMES FROM THE STATES CUP:

Veronica Zilajeva (OK - 2080)

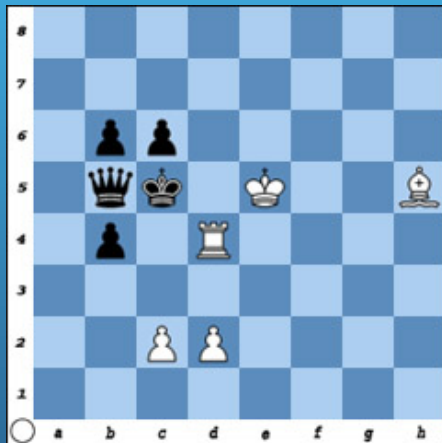
Daniel Herman (CO - 2138)

States Chess Cup, Match 1, OK-CO

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 d6 7.e3 O-O 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.Ne2 e5 10.O-O b6 11.d5 Na5 12.Ng3 Ba6 13.Qe2 Qd7?! (13...Nb3 14.Rb1 Nxc1) 14.a4 g6 15.f4? e4 16.Nxe4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bxc4 18.Bd3 Bxd5 19.e4 Bc6?! 20.f5 f6? 21.Bh6 Rf7 22.fxg6 hxg6

PUZZLES

Answers Next
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White to move and win. (Easy)



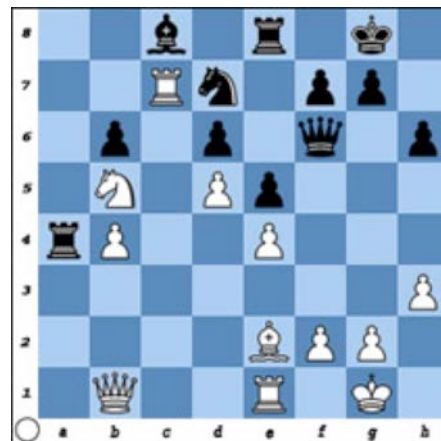
White to move and win. (Difficult)



23.e5! fxe5? (23...Rh7) 24.Bxg6 Rxf1+
25.Rxf1 Bd5 26.Qh5 Qe7 27.Bg5 1-0

Tom Braunlich (OK - 2200)
Rhett Langseth (CO - 2138)
States Chess Cup, Match 1, OK-CO

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 Nbd7 4.Nc3 e5
5.e4 c6 6.Be2 Be7 7.O-O O-O 8.h3 Re8
9.Be3 Bf8 10.Qc2 b6 11.Rfe1 Bb7 12.d5
Rc8 13.Rac1 h6 14.b4 cxd5 15.cxd5 Be7
16.Qb1 Nh7 17.a4 Ng5 18.Nxg5 Bxg5
19.Bxg5 Qxg5 20.Nb5 Qf6 21.Nxa7 Ra8
22.Nb5 Rxa4 23.Rc7 Bc8 24.Rc6 Bb7
25.Rc7 Bc8



26.Rec1 Ra8 27.Na7 Kh7 28.Nxc8 Qd8 29.Rxd7
Qxd7 30.Nxb6 Qa7 31.Nxa8 Rxa8 32.b5Rb8
33.Qc2 Qa3 34.Rb1 Rb6 35.Bf1 Kg6 36.Qb2 Qa4
37.Qb4 Qc2 38.Qb3 Qd2 39.Qe3 Qa5 40.Rc1
Rb7 41.Rc6 Qd8 42.Qa3 Rd7 43.b6 Kh7 44.Qa6
Qb8 45.Rc8 Qb7 46.Qxb7 Rxb7 47.Rc6 f5
48.Ba6 Rb8 49.b7 fxe4 50.Rc8 Rxb7 51.Bxb7
Kg6 52.Bc6 Kf5 53.Rf8+ Kg5 54.g3 h5 55.Kg2 g6
56.h4+ Kh6 57.Rf6 e3 58.fxe3 Kg7 59.Rxd6 e4
60.Rd7+ Kf6 61.Rd8 Ke7 62.Re8+ Kd6 63.Re6+
Kc7 64.Ba4 Kd8 65.d6 Kc8 66.Re8+ Kb7 67.d7
g5 68.d8=Q g4 69.Qb8+ Ka6 70.Qb5+ Ka7
71.Re7+ Ka8 72.Qb7# 1-0

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) It's a tricky answer: 1. Rd5+, cxd5 2. d4+ and now whichever way Black's king goes, white will skewer it on one of the diagonals. The resulting endgame a piece up is a win.

(2) 15-year-old Bobby Fischer was playing veteran champion Sammy Reshevsky in the 1958 U.S. Championship. Reshevsky unwisely played ...Na5 too early, and here Fischer took advantage of the unprotected Black queen on d8, playing 1. Bxf7+! Kxf7 (if 1...Rxf7, then 2. Ne6 wins the queen!) 2. Ne6!! (Anyway!). Fischer wins the black queen for two pieces, because Black can't play 2. ... Kxe6 without getting mated after 3. Qd5+.

Chess Coaching Available from USCF Life Master Tom Braunlich



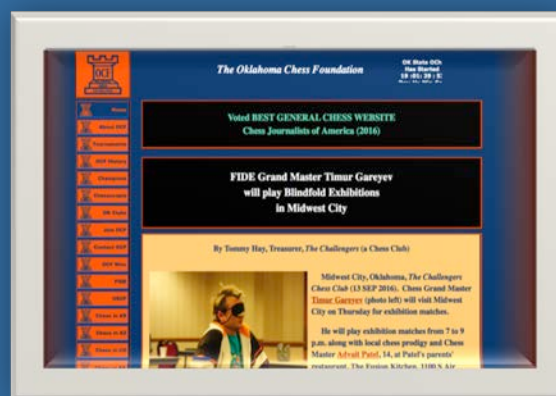
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U.S. Championships Online in October

There is some great online chess spectating coming up in October.

The different official championships for the USA will take place online starting October 9 and running for three weeks. All rapid chess. The events include the Overall U.S. Championship, the Women's Championship, the Junior Championship, the Girl's Championship, and the Senior Championship.

Games will be broadcast with GM commentary by the popular team of Seirawan, Shahade, and Ashley. There will be several options for viewing, including twitch.tv, but the main site is:

<https://www.uschesschamps.com/2020-us-championships/overview>



World Championship Cycle Restarting

FIDE has announced that the Candidates Tournament to determine the next world championship challenger for Magnus Carlsen will resume on November 1, 2020, in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

You will recall that the Candidates tournament started last March, but was halted halfway through the event due to the coronavirus pandemic. MVL and Nepomiaschi share the lead with 7 games left.

The winner will play Magnus Carlsen sometime in 2021 in the next full World Championship match.

TCA Election Results

At the Southwest Open a serious election tussle for the Texas Chess Association ended in these results:

President: Franc Guadalupe over Tom Crane (134-90). Vice President: Jim Hollingsworth (*OCA webmaster*) over Forrest Marler (135-86). Secretary: Renate Garcia over Sheryl McBroom (133-89). Treasurer: Barbara Swafford.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS



For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

Dec 19-20

RED RIVER OPEN

Oklahoma City OK

Details are still pending. 5-SS; Sponsored by the Dallas Chess Club — Location: Embassy Suites Oklahoma City: Downtown Medical Center, 741 North Phillips Avenue, OKC, 73104. Three Sections: Open, Amateur, and U1000 Scholastic. Main EF: \$90 by 12/14. Info: info@dallaschess.com. See USChess TLAs for more info soon.

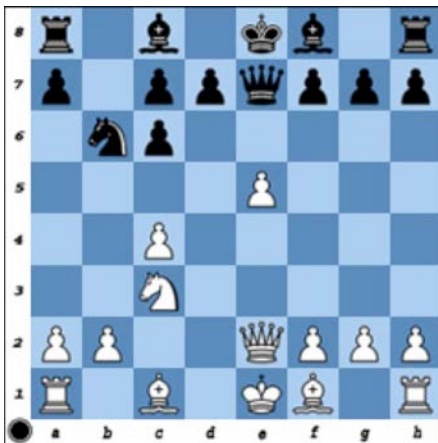


Green, NM Austin (2281)
 Amburgy, Ryan (2146) [C45]
 2020 Southwest Open Chess.com (2),
 06.09.2020
 [Notes by TB]

This OTB game from the last round of the Southwest Open is a good game worth study!

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Nb6
 The players enter the complex main line of the Scotch Opening, which was popularized by some Kasparov-Karpov battles in the late 1980s.

9.Nc3



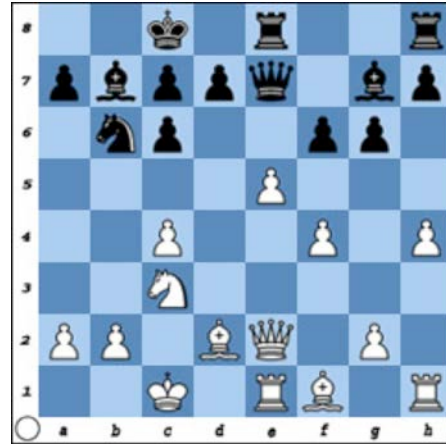
9...Bb7

9...Qe6 is the current main line, although Ryan's move and also ...Ba6 are very common too. Both players are struggling here to complete development while still dealing with the awkward tension in the center caused by the placement of their two queens blocking their bishops. Black tends to have problems with his N on b6 in this line, which is controlled by the c4 pawn.

10.Bd2 0-0-0 11.0-0-0 g6 12.Re1

[A new move in my database. A previous GM game went: 12.f4 c5 13.a4 d5 14.cxd5 Nxd5 15.g3 Qe6 16.Bg2 Nb4 with a complex position.]

12...Bg7 13.h4 [Idea: Rh3-e3] 13...Rde8
 14.f4 f6



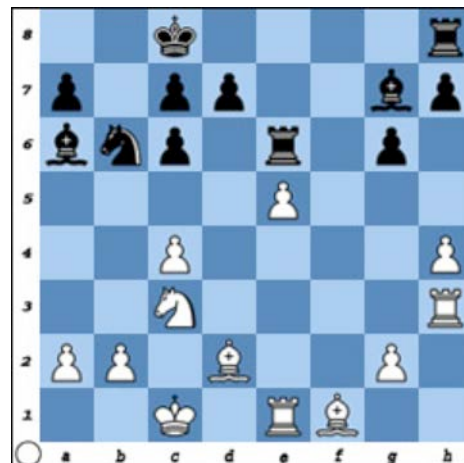
15.Rh3!?

[Was this a bluff? No, it's a daring gambit. The idea of tripling on the e-file looks strong, but the e-pawn is now *en prise*. Apparently white can keep a small edge with 15.exf6 Qxe2 16.Bxe2 Bxf6 but perhaps that wasn't enough. Both players needed to win.]

15...fxe5 16.fxe5 Ba6

[A good move, but Black could call White's bluff with 16...Bxe5 17.Re3 d6 Then the move 18.c5 was probably white's idea, but 18...Nd7 19.cxd6 cxd6 looks safe enough for black. The computer says this is roughly equal, but I'd rather have the extra pawn here.]

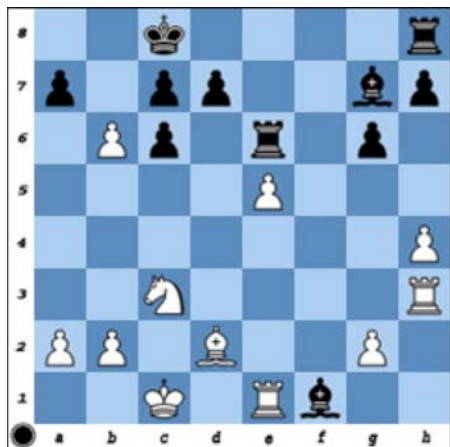
17.Qg4 Qe6 18.Qxe6 Rxe6



19.c5

Initiating a surprising amount of complications!

19... Bxf1 20.cxb6



A key position. The desperado white pawn on b6 is surprisingly annoying for Black.

20...Ba6?

- 20...Bxg2 21.bxa7 Kb7 22.Rd3! Bxe5 23.Rxd7 Kxa7 24.Rxc7+ Bxc7 25.Rxe6 would have maintained an equal ending.;
- The computer likes 20...Rf8 21.bxa7 Kb7 22.Na4!? because amazingly the natural move 22...Kxa7 then actually loses to a mating net with 23.Nc5 Re7 24.Rb3 etc. That's incredible.
- So after 20...Rf8 21.bxa7 Kb7 22.Na4 Rxe5 23.Rxe5 Bxe5 24.Nc5+ Ka8! 25.Nxd7 Bxg2 26.Nxf8 Bxh3 27.Nxh7 Kxa7 and it's a drawish ending. Wow.

21.bxa7 Kb7 22.Ne4!

[Suddenly white is winning at least the exchange.]

22...Rxe5 23.Bc3 Rhe8

[Of course, if 23...Re7 24.Nc5+-]

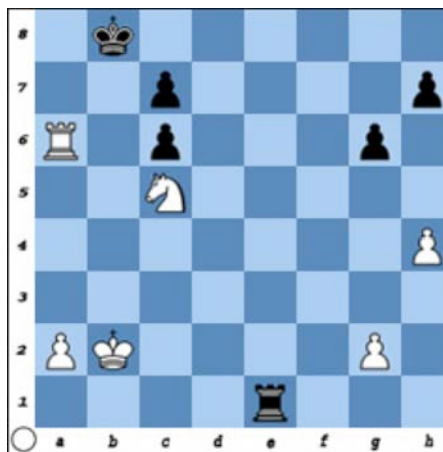
24.Nc5+!

[Much stronger than 24.Bxe5]

24...Kxa7

[24...Rxc5 25.Rxe8 Kxa7 26.Re7 Bxc3 27.Rxc3 is also rather hopeless for Black.]

25.Bxe5 Bxe5 26.Ra3+- Bxb2+ 27.Kxb2 Rxe1 28.Rxa6+ Kb8 29.Nxd7+ Kb7 30.Nc5+ Kb8



After some terrific tactics by NM Austin Green, he has emerged up a piece and should be winning. But demonstrating a win here isn't easy. Ryan is about to get a 2nd pawn for the piece, and then if he can trade off White's last two pawns it will be a draw.

Please take note from here on how well Ryan sets obstacles for White, and how expertly White eludes them to win!

31.Kc3 Rg1 32.g4 Rxc4 33.Ra4 Rg3+ 34.Kd4 g5!? 35.Ne4 Rg4 36.hxc5 h6 37.Rb4+!

[37.gxh6 Rh4 would force white to show the win with just the a-pawn, similar to the game.]

37...Ka8 [37...Kc8 38.Ke3 hxc5 39.Nd6+]

38.Kc5! hxc5 39.Kxc6 Rg2 40.Ra4+ Kb8 41.Nc5 [Threatening mate.]

41...Rc2 42.a3 Rc3 43.Rb4+ Kc8 44.a4 Rh3 [44...Ra3 would stop the a-pawn from advancing, but would lose to 45.Re4]

45.a5 Rh4 46.Rb1 Rd4 47.Rb7

[It's not too late for White to lose: 47.a6?? Rd6+ 48.Kb5 Rb6+]

47...Rd6+ 48.Kb5 Rd5 49.a6 g4 50.Kb4 [Now threatening a7. 50.a7?? Rxc5+]

50...Rd4+ 51.Kb3 Rd1 52.a7 Rb1+ 53.Kc2 Rxb7 54.a8Q+

Very nice game by both players!

1-0



By IM John Donaldson

REVIEW:

Opening Repertoire: The Sveshnikov (by IM Cyrus Lakdawala — Everyman Chess 2020, 320 pages, \$27.95 www.everymanchess.com).

Some lines of the Sicilian date back over a century like the Scheveningen or the Paulsen, but others were discovered more recently. One of the latter is the Sveshnikov variation (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5) as it is known in the West, which was discovered and analyzed by Evgeny Sveshnikov and Gennadi Timoshenko and their students in the Siberian city of Chelyabinsk. The line is in fact called the Chelyabinsk Variation in Russia and parts of Eastern Europe.

The sequence 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 dates back to the 19th century but it was only in the 1970s that it started to be seen regularly when the continuation 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 came to the fore. Now it is one of Black's most popular and well-respected systems not far behind the Najdorf. While it probably helps that the Sveshnikov is not quite as heavily analyzed nor as strategically complex as its fellow Sicilian variation, its still requires solid preparation.

The man to provide it is San Diego International Master Cyrus Lakdawala, author of an introductory guide to this variation (*The Sicilian Sveshnikov: Move by Move* by Everyman Chess, 2016). He is now back with a more advanced work on the topic - *Opening Repertoire: The Sveshnikov*.

It covers:

- All lines after 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5
- Earlier deviations by White after 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 including 6.Nb3, 6.Nf3, 6.Nde2, 6.Nxc6 and 6.Nf5 – none of these are dangerous.
- The trendy 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5, tested extensively in the 2018 World Championship match by Fabiano Caruana against Magnus Carlsen.
- The attempt to sidestep the Sveshnikov by 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3. A number of top GMs now play 3...g6, offering to transpose into the Accelerated Dragon when White no longer has the possibility of steering into the Maroczy Bind. Lakdawala instead prefers 3...e5 which he dubs more “Sveshnikov-like”.

The book does not cover earlier Anti-Sicilian deviations.

As a bonus Lakdawala analyses the little-known *Mamba System* –

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 Bc5, a personal favorite of the author that seems quite playable, particularly at the club level.

One important discovery he points out is that Black can avoid the drawing line after 7.Nd6+ Ke7 8.Nf5+ Kf8 9.Be3 Bb4 10.Nd6 Qe7 11.Nf5 with 11...Qe6! (avoiding the draw) 12.Bd3 d5 13.exd5 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qxd5 15.0-0 Bxf5 16.Bxf5 Qxd1 17.Rfxd1 g6 18.Bh6+ Ke7 19.Bd3 Nd5, reaching a dynamic ending where Black stands no worse. This is important as this line can also arise from the currently popular Sicilian Four Knights variation 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Ndb5 Bc5.